Untested Drug Samples

1105. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1000 samples of drugs collected by the inspectors of Drug Control Department are lying untested in the laboratory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these samples are likely to be tested?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMAN IRAMADOSS): (a) to(c) Information in respect of sample collection by all the State Drugs Control Departments is not maintained oentrally. The sample collection as well as the time taken to test the samples varies from State to State depending upon the available infrastructure and manpower. It has been the endeavour of Government of India to ensure that the pendency period is progressively reduced by assisting the States in building and strengthening their testing capacities.

A comprehensive scheme has been undertaken by the Government of India under the World Bank Capacity Building project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs, where one of the objectives is to increase the numbers of drugs samples tested in the country from the present level of about 38,000 samples per year to one lakh samples per year. The second important objective of this scheme is to reduce the delays in testing and bring down reporting time to less than a month. To achieve these objectives the scheme envisages the augmentation of the infrastructural facilities in State Government Laboratories and training of drug regulatory and testing manpower.

Prohibition of Smoking at Public Places

†1106. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons against whom action has been taken under the Prohibition of Smoking at Public Places Act, State-wise; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.